

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee

My name is Joseph Bennett Jr. And I oppose Bill No. 830.

I have lived in Washington for 36 years and for as long as I can remember our family has used a wood stove to heat our home.

I bought a house in Washington in the winter of 2001 and the first thing I did was put in a wood stove in the basement. It worked perfect for heating the house but comes with some dangers. Wood brought into the house introduced ants, termites and possibly harmful spiders along with mold spores and allergies. All not good with having 3 children. Another danger was the chance for a chimney fire or house fire cause by the wood stove in our home.

It seems crazy people would have a fire in their house and leave it unattended. But with funds short in the winter, burning wood will keep you warm at a lower cost. For me, the cost is next to nothing. Other than the time it takes to prepare firewood for my stove, logs are given to me by local arborists and the Town of Washington. Every year the Town gives away wood from the dangerous trees that are removed , to anyone that wants it.

In 2006, I built a new house on the same property. My family had outgrown our first home. I added an Outdoor Wood Furnace to my permit. I had to go through zoning for location and approval. My neighbors were All notified and all approved. My building inspector, which was a past Fire Chief and safety inspector, said this was the safest way to heat a home .Nationwide, my homeowners insurance, was very impressed and lowered my rates, being there was no danger of combustion in my home.

The outdoor wood furnace was a big expense, close to \$20,000 by the time it was done. Not having the wood stove in my house, the price was well worth it knowing my family will be safe.

The good features of wood are it's a renewable resource and it is a Biomass fuel which is carbon neutral. By burning wood instead of fossil fuels, I am not contributing to greenhouse gases which we know today are very harmful to the environment.

World carbon dioxide emissions are projected to rise from 7.9 billion metric tons per year to 9.9 billion metric tons in 2020 the U.S. Energy Information Administration is reporting. These emissions are from burning fossil fuels.

I have had people say to me that today fossil fuels are cleaner lower emissions and safer. I say you must be blind. Our oceans are littered with spills and platforms, refineries are spuing ton's of pollutants into the air, miners buried alive, gas explosions in communities and our soldiers have given their lives so we can have oil

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am a father trying to raise a family of 4 and having a hard time making ends meet. With the cost of living rising, gas, groceries, bills etc. and work slowing in the winter months my family cannot afford another big expense if the Outdoor Wood Furnace is banned. I ask you to oppose Bill No.830  
Thank You